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Message Text

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72
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W
---------- 067409
R 231430Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0046
E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS : PFOR,SF,US
SUBJ :MULDER MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT FORD

1. ARGUS GROUP NEWSPAPERS ARE PLAYING SOUTH AFRICAN INFORMATION(AND INTERIOR) MINISTER DR.C.P.MULDER'S MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON,JANUARY 22, AS QUIET VICTORY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN DIPLOMACY AND SOMETHING OF A PERSONAL TRIUMPH FOR MULDER.

2. CAPE ARGUS POINTS OUT THIS WAS MULDER'S SECOND MEETING WITH AN AMERICAN VICE PRESIDENT IN THREE YEARS AND THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CONTACT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN AND USG OFFICIALS FOR AT LEAST A DECADE. NEWSPAPERS CHARACTERIZES MULDER'S MEETING ITH FORD AS BOTH MORE SIGNIFICANT AND MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN HIS MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW.

3. ARGUS DISCUSSES POSSIBILITY OF FORD'S SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY AND POINTS TO BENEFITS OF WINNING HIS EAR'AT THIS STAGE'. MULDER'S MEETING WITH FORD IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OFF WITHOUT 'ACRIMONY AND MUTUAL RECRIMINATIONS' THAT SPRANG UP BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN AND USG OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AS RESULT
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OF SOUTH AFRICANS' HEAVY-HANDED ARRANGEMENTS FOR MULDER'S

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MEETING WITH AGNEW. THIS TIME SOUTH AFRICANS
REPORTEDLY WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO AVOID UPSETTING USG.
ACCORDING TO ARGUS,NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO EXPLOIT PUBLICITY
VALUE OF MEETING,THERE WAS NO ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT,NO
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND NO'PUBLIC GLOATING' BY SOUTH AFRICANS
AFTER MEETING. ARGUS STATES THAT HANDLING OF VISIT WAS
TYPICAL OF 'EASIER' WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SOUTH
AFRICAN AND USG OFFICIALS WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM
PRESIDENT NIXON'S 'RESTRAINED POLICY' AND THE 'PAINSTAKING
DIPLOMACY' OF SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
DURING PAST FEW YEARS.

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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